

national briefs

ILLINOIS: Longtime Chicago activist Tim Drake will leave his job at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, D.C., to run for the Illinois House of Representatives.

Sources say Drake, a Republican, and some of NGLTF's many leftist staffers and board members, including Executive Director Urvashi Vaid, have been at odds for months over NGLTF's extensive work on non-gay and lesbian-specific issues.

Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar horrified AIDS activists, civil libertarians, gay health workers and others when he said the state may start forcibly testing some health care professionals for HIV. New guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control urge infected health care providers to stop performing "exposure-prone invasive procedures" unless they receive approval from "an expert review panel" and then tell their patients of their HIV status. Mandatory testing may be

Edgar said, to identify the individuals targeted by the guidelines.

The National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) has issued a manual to help the gay and lesbian community explore the issue of racism. *Resisting Racism: An Action Guide* is edited by Dr. Gerald Mallon and published by the Racism Task Force of NABWMT.

The manual can be ordered by sending a check or money order for \$19.95, payable to NABWMT Publications, PO Box 408641, Chicago, IL 60640. It is also available at most gay and lesbian bookstores.

MASSACHUSETTS: The first sex manual written for gay men in the age of AIDS is finally nearing publication. *Gay Sex*, an illustrated manual by Jack Hart, was scheduled for release by Alyson Publications of Boston in October. After 18 commercial book printers refused the job, a

Canadian printer agreed to publish it. However, the layouts have been seized by Canadian customs agents, presumably because of their explicit nature. Despite the delay, publisher Sasha Alyson predicts the book will be available early in 1992.

NEW YORK: More than 20 AIDS activists dressed as Santa wreaked havoc at Macy's department store in New York City Nov. 29, chaining themselves together inside and forcing store personnel to call police. Macy's firing of Mark Woodley, an HIV-positive Santa, prompted the Santa blitz on the traditional first day of Christmas shopping. Nineteen people were arrested. Woodley, 34, is suing the store for \$2.75 million and asking that he be rehired.

A lesbian and gay organization is placing in *People* magazine what may be the single most expensive and widely seen pro-gay advertisement ever.

The full-page ad is sponsored by the national Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project, a non-profit organization which uses the media to educate the public on the topic of homosexuality and homophobia. The ad will appear in the Dec. 30 year-end double issue of *People* and feature a photo of more than 40 lesbians and gay men with the caption, "Guess What? We're your family, neighbors, and friends...and we're gay. Look beyond the lesbian and gay stereotypes and find out more about us!"

WASHINGTON, D.C.: U.S. Rep. Gerry E. Studds (D-Mass.) and Don Edwards (D-Calif.) have succeeded in forcing the Department of Defense to withdraw a briefing paper listing "homosexual conduct" among potential behavior patterns of spies.

U. S. Surgeon General Antonia Novello, the nation's chief medical officer, told ACT UP/District of Columbia members that if she were HIV-positive, she would join ACT UP, the group reported. She also pledged to "become a thorn" in the administration's side over safe-sex education because "this is something I have to do," ACT UP said.

Thanks to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, an appropriations bill signed into law by President Bush includes mandatory procedures for the Dept. of Justice to follow in responding to hate crimes, including those leveled against gays and lesbians. Under a provision the Dept. of Justice must now include homophobic incidents in its bias crime investigations and reports.

The Names Project Foundation is launching a national fundraising effort to help return the entire quilt to Washington, D.C., for display during the weekend of Oct. 9-11, 1992. Those interested in contributing contact the Names Project Foundation, 2362 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, telephone (415) 863-5511.

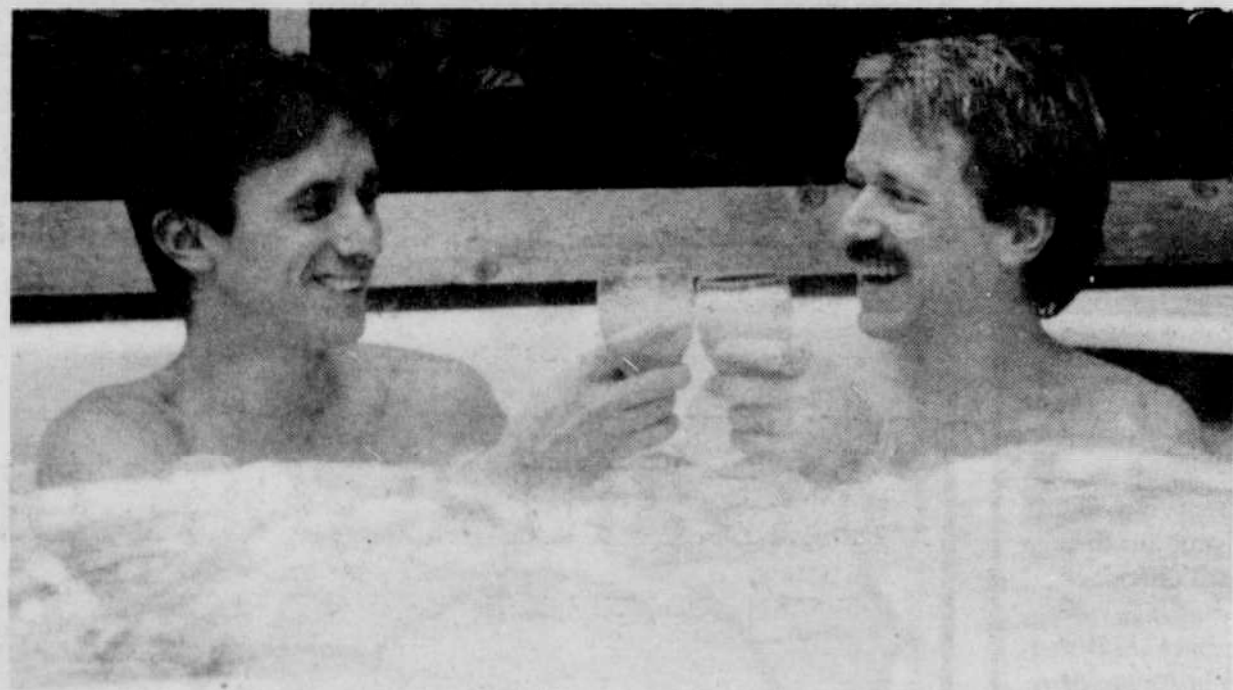
Why are gay and lesbian teens particularly at risk for suicide? How can educators help? Three important new issue papers have been developed by noted sexuality educator Ann Thompson Cook, with cooperation and ongoing review and evaluation by experts in the fields of suicidology, education, counseling, and religion. To order the set of three papers, send \$5 to Respect All Youth, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1012 14th Avenue NW, Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 20005.

In the first encounter of its kind in the nation's capital, representatives of the gay and lesbian leather and S/M community met with top National Endowment of the Arts officials to discuss attacks on freedom of expression. The activists presented a legislative overview involving censorship, discussed the history of the S/M and leather community and its response to the current political arts crisis, and displayed works by J. C. Collins, photographer and current Ms. San Francisco Leather.

The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, the only national minority HIV organization to be funded by the Center for Disease Control, had its budget cut by 43 percent. The budget cuts will cripple its education efforts among people of color.

Lesbian and gay couples and other non-traditional families find access to benefits like married couple housing on 22 U.S. college campuses. A national survey by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy (NGLTF) institute, *Domestic Partners/Non-Traditional Family Recognition in Campus Benefit Policies*, is available by sending \$5 for shipping to NGLTF, 1734 Fourteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009-4309, attention campus domestic partner policies survey.

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